

Julia Patterson

Metropolitan King County Council District 5
King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104-3272

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 1788

King County Environmental Resources

Solid Waste Division

(206) 296-4466

*Illegal Dumping, Composting, Junk Mail
Prevention, Plastics Recycling, Reusable
Building Materials Exchange*

Dept. of Development & Environmental Services

(206) 296-6600

*Land and Building Permits, Critical Areas
Ordinance, Code Enforcement, Property Research*

Hazardous Waste Management Program

(206) 296-4692

*Appliance, Paint, Battery, Pesticide, Motor Oil,
Computer, Printing Cartridge, Tire Recycling*

Water and Land Resources Division

(206) 296-6519

*Natural Yard Care and Gardening, Sustainable
Building, Noxious Weed Control, Wetlands,
Flooding, Salmon Restoration*



Lake Communities

King County Councilmember

Julia Patterson

Julia Patterson
King County Council

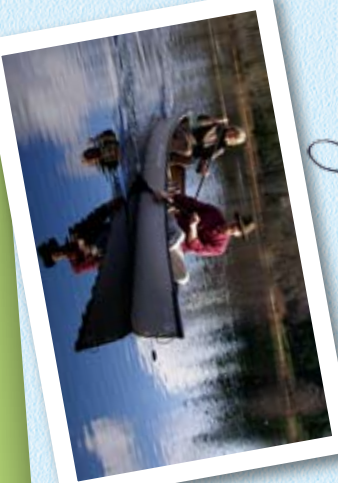
Dear Neighbors:

King County is home to many beautiful and thriving lakes. These lakes are not only vital to our environment, but to our community as well. There are many things that we can do to protect and enhance the health of our lakes, from smart watering, to using natural lawn care products, to controlling invasive weeds.

In this newsletter, I have detailed King County programs that are designed to promote healthy lakes. I have also included some tips on Natural Lawn Care and Noxious Weed Control. I hope that through awareness, community involvement and county initiatives, our community lakes will thrive for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

Julia and
Panther
Lake
resident,
Sam Miller,
head out in
a canoe.



Room 1200
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA
98104-3272
Telephone:
(206) 296-1005
Fax:
(206) 296-1050
Toll-free:
(800) 325-6165
TTY/TDD:
(206) 296-1024

Julia Patterson

Three King County Lake Programs



Julia with Panther Lake residents.

1 Lake Stewardship Program

The Lake Stewardship Program monitors water quality in small lakes to assess changes over time. The program offers training and supplies to volunteers so they can collect data on their lake. The program also offers data analysis of water depth, temperature, and clarity. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Lake Stewardship program, please contact the program's director at 206-296-8382.

2 Natural Lawn Care

The Natural Lawn Care program is a community training initiative designed to promote environmentally friendly yard care practices. Representatives from the program conduct three training sessions for your community, covering chemical-free lawns, soil development, and smart-water usage. To participate in the 2007 training, please contact the Natural Lawn Care Coordinator at 296-8360.

3 Noxious Weed Removal

Through the King County Grant Exchange, community groups can apply for grants to remove invasive, non-native weeds around lake, wetland, and forest habitats. These grants are not monetary, but are rather for "work-time". Grant recipients receive the benefit of a six person work crew consisting of EarthCorp members. The EarthCorp members and neighborhood volunteers spend a full day removing significant amounts of noxious weeds from the community's natural habitat. Please contact the King County Grant Exchange Coordinator at 206-296-8265 for more information.

Yard and Lawn Tips to Keep Our Lakes Clean and Healthy

Mulch Mowing

- Mow your lawn at a longer length and mow more frequently.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn. When clippings break down, they add nutrients and moisture to the soil and act as a natural fertilizer.

Smart Watering

- Water only when needed: when grass loses its shine or footprints tend to linger.
- Water lawns in the early morning to avoid evaporation.
- Water deeply so the roots can absorb the water.

Natural Lawn Products

- Weed-and-Feed products, pesticides and fertilizers, when used on your lawn, end up in the lake.
- Use natural bug killers like borax or horticulture oil to control pests.
- Use compost instead of fertilizer. Compost is an organic material that is produced when leaves, plant residue, and grass clippings break down over time.

Noxious Weed Prevention

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that are highly destructive, competitive and difficult to control or eliminate. Noxious weeds can destroy native plant and animal habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways, lower land values, and poison humans and animals.

Prevention and Removal Tips:

- Check vehicles, clothing, boats, boat trailers, and camping equipment for weeds and seeds.
- Never dump aquarium plants into a pond, stream or other water bodies.
- Cover compost, topsoil and mulch piles with a tarp to prevent contamination.
- After removing weeds, replant area with appropriate species or fill with mulch to prevent weeds from returning.
- Properly dispose of noxious weeds and weed seeds to prevent re-infestation.

Sign up for my E-newsletter at www.metrokc.gov/patterson